

April 17, 2003

Ms. Suzi Pengilly Neitzel
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Idaho State Historical Society
210 Main Street
Boise, Idaho 83702-5642

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CONCURRENCE ON THE DETERMINATION OF EFFECT ON
HISTORIC PROPERTIES FOR THE PROPOSED IDAHO SPENT FUEL
STORAGE FACILITY

Dear Ms. Pengilly Neitzel:

By a letter dated December 5, 2002, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) staff notified you of a pending license application submitted to the NRC by the Foster Wheeler Environmental Corporation (FWENC) to allow the receipt, transfer, packaging, and possession of spent nuclear fuel (SNF) at the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility located on the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory (INEEL). The NRC is in the process of completing the draft Environmental Impact Statement which is scheduled for completion in June 2003.

A "Cultural Resource Investigations for the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility at the INEEL" was prepared for the DOE in March 2001 by the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office (attachment). This report describes the areas that will be affected by the construction of the proposed facility and the cultural resources that are in or near these areas. The proposed location of the Idaho Spent Fuel Facility would be on previously disturbed land adjacent to the Idaho Nuclear Technology and Engineering Center (INTEC) in the south-central portion of the INEEL. The area includes a small complex of existing office buildings, warehouses, and trailers immediately to the east of the INTEC perimeter fence and north of a coal-fired power plant. There are two areas of potential effect for the proposed project. The first is the facility construction site, which is an 8-acre parcel located near a large ash pit associated with INTEC's coal-fired power plant. The second area is a 4-acre construction laydown area, which would be used to facilitate construction activities. This area is located a short distance to the northeast of the proposed facility location. Ground disturbance associated with construction of the facility and other temporary support facilities will be localized, but extensive in both areas. There will not be any modifications or removal of existing structures or buildings within the INTEC facility. Both areas of potential effect have been investigated for cultural resources. Intensive archeological surveys from the 1980s, subsequent archeological reconnaissance by the INEEL Cultural Resource Management Office, historic building inventories and lists of other structures, and previous and ongoing consultation with the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes have been combined to identify any significant cultural resources with visible surface remains in the affected areas. Based on this research, few cultural resources have been identified in the vicinity of INTEC. On the eastern side of the INTEC, where the proposed facility will be

constructed, three archeological resources have been identified. However, these resources are located outside of the areas of potential effect for the proposed project and would not be impacted. Nonetheless, these areas would be monitored to avoid any impacts to these or any other resources that are discovered during construction activities.

Based on this information the NRC has determined that no historic properties are affected by the proposed undertaking (i.e., licensing the proposed Idaho Spent Fuel Facility). Please provide your concurrence regarding NRC's determination that the undertaking will not effect historic properties. If you have any questions or comments, or need any additional information, please contact Matthew Blevins at 301-415-7684. Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Lawrence E. Kokajko, Acting Chief
Environmental and Performance
Assessment Branch
Division of Waste Management
Office of Nuclear Material Safety
and Safeguards

Attachment: As stated

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